

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 remain pending in the present application. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to make Claims 10 and 11 generic to Species A and B identified by the Examiner. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

The Examiner has required an election of species pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following patentably distinct species:

Species A: Figs. 1, 4 and 5;

Species B: Figs. 2, 6 and 7.

Applicant, without traverse, respectfully requests the Examiner to proceed with Species A principally illustrated in Figures 1, 4 and 5. Applicant believes that Claims 1, 2 and 4-16 read on the elected species and that at least Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 10-16 are generic. Applicant requests that the non-elected Claims be held in abeyance for possible rejoinder and/or further prosecution in future divisional and/or continuation applications.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Michael J. Schmidt, 34,007

Dated: August 12, 2004

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MJS/pmg